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PATENT

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 were rejected as unpatentable over Nilssen in view of other prior art. The crux of the matter is that the Examiner found the word "independent" used in the Nilssen patent and presumes that the word is used correctly. It is not. The American Heritage Dictionary defines "independent" as follows.

independent adjective.

1. Politically autonomous; self-governing.
2. Free from the influence, guidance, or control of another or others; self-reliant: an independent mind.
3. Not determined or influenced by someone or something else; not contingent: an independent study of air pollution.
4. Affiliated with or loyal to no one political party or organization: an independent voter.
5. Not dependent on or affiliated with a larger or controlling group or system: an independent food store.

As explained at length in the response filed April 27, 2006, patentee's use of the term "independent" is not descriptive of what is actually taking place and is not a use of the term in its ordinary and accepted meaning.

The Examiner asserts that "A non-operative state is independent as Nilssen discloses above." (1) "Independent" is not a defined term in the Nilssen patent. There is no indication that any special meaning was intended. (2) The test for interpreting prior art is how one of ordinary skill in the art would interpret the words used. For the reasons given in the response filed April 27, 2006, one of ordinary skill in the art does not confuse "operative" with "inoperative."

Whether or not "independently" has a special meaning in the Nilssen patent, it is used in its ordinary and accepted meaning in applicant's description and claims and the Examiner is bound to so interpret the claims.

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Applicant is not bound by the inarticulateness of the Nilssen patent. The Examiner is forcing a meaning on the claims that is not there. It is respectfully submitted that such analysis is backwards.

It is respectfully submitted that "*as long as the other is maintained in a non-operative state*" is the antithesis of "independent" operation and no amount of verbal gymnastics can make it otherwise; see definition 3. of "independent" given above.

The Examiner asserts that "The claims do not require two half-bridge [sic] have to operative [sic] at the same time." Claim 12 says "whereby the first half bridge and the second half bridge **operate**" [emphasis added]. The claim clearly recites two half bridges operating.

The adverbial phrase "independently of each other" modifies "operating" but does not contradict it. The phrase does not turn "operating" into "not operating" as the Examiner alleges. Such a distorted meaning is simply not there. If it were, the claim would be internally inconsistent but the Examiner has not found the claim indefinite.

The claims differ from the prior art as "and" differs from "or." The Nilssen patent alleges that one half bridge can operate alone if the other half bridge is rendered inoperative. How is not disclosed. Assuming that it can be done, one and only one half bridge can operate at a time as alleged in the Nilssen patent. This is "or" not "and" as recited in applicant's claim 12.

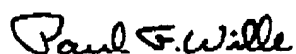
It is noted that, in his "Response to Arguments", the Examiner has not responded to a single itemized comment in the response filed April 27, 2006. Claims 1-14 are also patentable for the (unanswered) reasons given in applicant's previous response. Applicant's claims are being rejected over a distorted interpretation of an inarticulate speculation not fully disclosed in the Nilssen patent. It is respectfully submitted that, as such, the rejections are improper.

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In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-14 are in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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